




Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM 2009-020

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Nathaniel Castellanos, Project Analyst 

DATE: February 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Administering the *2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)*

PLEASE CIRCULATE TO YRBS COORDINATORS

The time is rapidly approaching for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to conduct the *2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)*.

Your district and/or schools are currently in or may soon be in the process of administering the 2009 YRBS. Once your district and/or schools determine the actual date, we will need an **updated 2nd semester class schedule** for the YRBS administration. The window this year is February through June 2009. Please send it via e-mail, or if you prefer you can fax it to (307) 777-6234. That way we can pre-sort your materials as soon as possible.

Example: Mr. Smith, 2nd period, 25 students (No student names are needed)

Attached you will also find copies of the passive parental consent forms for your convenience. You can modify them to include the date of administration. The letters can be sent out by news letter to parents but, please note the 3 day dead line.

We sincerely thank you for your partnership on this important endeavor. It is only through the cooperation of schools and students that we are able to gather this invaluable health behavior data. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ncaste@educ.state.wy.us, (307) 777-6391.

Enclosure

High School Passive Parental Permission Form

Our school is taking part in the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey is sponsored by Wyoming Department of Education. The survey will ask about the health behaviors of 9th through 12th grade students. The survey will ask about nutrition, physical activity, injuries, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use. It will also ask about sexual behaviors that cause AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy.

Students will be asked to fill out a survey on _____. The survey takes about 45 minutes to complete.

Doing this paper and pencil survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. The results of this survey will help your child and other children in the future. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey, but the survey is voluntary. No action will be taken against the school, you, or your child if your child does not take part. Students can skip any questions they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty. If you would like to see the survey, a copy is available <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/yrbs/yrbs.asp>.

Please read the section below and check the box ***only if you do not*** want your child to take part in the survey. If you check the box "no" below, then sign this form and return it to the school within 3 days. Please see the other side of this form for more facts about the survey. If your child's teacher or principal cannot answer your questions about the survey, please call Nathaniel Castellanos, Project Analyst at (307) 777-6391. Thank you.

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

[] NO, my child may not take part in this survey.

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone number: _____

Survey Fact Sheet

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. The Wyoming Department of Education will use the survey results to help measure how many youth practice health risk behaviors. The survey results also will be used to create school health programs to help reduce these behaviors.

Q. Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Yes. Some questions are sensitive. AIDS, HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of getting AIDS. The only way to learn if youth are at risk of getting AIDS is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, and weapon-carrying also may be sensitive topics. Questions are written in a direct but sensitive way.

Q. Will students' names be used or linked to the surveys?

A. No. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students do not put their name on the survey.

Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?

A. No. Each year a new sample of schools and students is picked. Students who take part one year cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

Q. How was my child picked to be in the survey?

A. Students in grades 6 through 12 were randomly selected to participate statewide and or district wide.

Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey? Does the survey include a physical test?

A. One class period is needed to fill out the survey, the middle school survey which has 60 questions and the high school survey which has 97 questions. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

Q. Can I see the questions my student will be asked?

A. Yes, a copy of the survey is available at <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/yrbs/yrbs.asp>.

Q. Who supports this survey?

A. This survey is supported by many state and local organizations interested in the health of youth. It is also supported by many national organizations. People from more than 100 state and local health and education agencies and 19 federal agencies helped develop the survey.

Middle School Passive Parental Permission Form

Our school is taking part in the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey is sponsored by Wyoming Department of Education. The survey will ask about the health behaviors of 6th through 8th grade students. The survey will ask about nutrition, physical activity, injuries, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use. It will also ask about sexual behaviors that cause AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy.

Students will be asked to fill out a survey on _____. The survey takes about 45 minutes to complete.

Doing this paper and pencil survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. The results of this survey will help your child and other children in the future. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey, but the survey is voluntary. No action will be taken against the school, you, or your child if your child does not take part. Students can skip any questions they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty. If you would like to see the survey, a copy is available <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/yrbs/yrbs.asp>.

Please read the section below and check the box ***only if you do not*** want your child to take part in the survey. If you check the box "no" below, then sign this form and return it to the school within 3 days. Please see the other side of this form for more facts about the survey. If your child's teacher or principal cannot answer your questions about the survey, please call Nathaniel Castellanos, Project Analyst at (307) 777-6391. Thank you.

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

[] NO, my child may not take part in this survey.

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone number: _____

Survey Fact Sheet

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. The Wyoming Department of Education will use the survey results to help measure how many youth practice health risk behaviors. The survey results also will be used to create school health programs to help reduce these behaviors.

Q. Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Yes. Some questions are sensitive. AIDS, HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of getting AIDS. The only way to learn if youth are at risk of getting AIDS is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, and weapon-carrying also may be sensitive topics. Questions are written in a direct but sensitive way.

Q. Will students' names be used or linked to the surveys?

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